

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO

SUBJECT: STATUS OF PREPARATIONS FOR FAO COUNCIL MEETING,
MARCH 10-14

REF: STATE 031456

1. SEVERAL ADDITIONS ARE BEING MADE IN AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR FAO COUNCIL MEETING.

A) NEW AGENDA ITEM 6 HAS BEEN ADDED AT NETHERLANDS SUGGESTION CALLING FOR PROGRESS REPORT BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON CURRENT WORLD FOOD SITUATION.

B) DOCUMENT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED ON GLOBAL INFORMATION AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (CL 65/4) UNDER ITEM 3 OF AGENDA.

C) WORLD BANK HAS SENT TELEGRAM SUGGESTING FAO CONSIDER NOMINATING TWO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FROM EACH OF ITS FIVE DEVELOPING REGIONS -- AFRICA, ASIA AND FAR EAST, EASTERN AND SOUTHERN EUROPE, LATIN AMERICA, AND NEAR EAST -- TO SERVE IN CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON FOOD PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE RESOLUTION 22, PARAGRAPH 14. (COMMENT: OFFICE HANDLING PREPARA-

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TION FOR FAO COUNCIL MEETING IS DRAFTING DOCUMENT

SUGGESTING GOVERNMENTS MAY WISH TO CONSIDER THIS PROPOSAL IN FAO COUNCIL, ALTHOUGH NEITHER DOCUMENT NOR AGENDA ITEM ON THIS QUESTION HAS BEEN DEFINITELY APPROVED. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO APPRECIATES PRAGMATIC REASONS WHY FAO IS ASKED TO NOMINATE DEVELOPING COUNTRY MEMBERSHIP, BUT BELIEVES CONCEPTUALLY FAO NOMINATIONS SHOULD COVER WHOLE RANGE OF FAO MEMBERSHIP, INCLUDING DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.)

2. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF GENEVA GROUP COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN PRESSING TO EXPEDITE DOCUMENTATION ON COUNCIL MEETING, AND PARTICULARLY TO BOTAIN DEY DOCUMENTS ON BUDGET AND PROGRAM, BUT WITH LIMITED SUCCERFM DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL JACKSON IS ON LEAVE. (HE WILL BE HERE ON FEBRUARY 24-25, DEPART FOR WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 26, GO TO NEW YORK MARCH 1 TO SPEAK AT COLUMBIA AND RETURN TO ROME MARCH 5.) KEY DOCUMENTS WILL HAVE TO HAVE IMPRINT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL BOERMA, WHO RETURNS FROM MIDDLE EAST TRIP FEBRUARY 25, AND WILL PROBABLY TAKE SOME TIME TO APPROVE THEM. KEY PROGRAM-BUDGET DOCUMENT WILL BE LENGTHY AND COMPLICATED, AND HAS BEEN DELAYED BY FAILURES TO MEET INTERNAL DEADLINES WITHIN FAO, WHICH IS PARTIALLY EXPLICABLE BY THE MYRIAD TASKS AND MEETINGS IMPOSED UPON FAO AT THIS MOMENT. PRACTICAL SOLUTION AND EXPECTATION, IN OUR OPINION, IS NOT MECHANICAL ONE OF TRYING TO PRESS FAOTO GET DOCUMENTS OUT ON NOW IMPOSSIBLE SCHEDULE, BUT INSTEAD TO DIG OUT HIGH-POINTS IN FASHION UNAUTHORIZED BY TOP OFFICIALS. WE DO KNOW THAT TOTAL BUDGET ESTIMAGE NOW STANDS IN DRAFT AT \$174 MILLION, OF WHICH \$101 MILLION REFLECT PREVIOUS PROGRAM, AND \$33 MILLION INCREASED COSTS. WE ARE CONFIDENT WE CAN GET HIGHLIGHTS OF DOCUMENT TO REPORT EARLY NEXT WEEK, BUT ASK THAT THIS BE HELD CONFIDENTIAL SINCE RELEASE WILL NOT HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THAT TIME. VOLPE

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